In the Specification

Please amend the specification paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31 as follows. Applicant presents a replacement paragraph marked up to show changes to the specification.

Homologs and alleles of the MIVR-1 nucleic acids of the invention can be identified by conventional techniques. Thus, an aspect of the invention is those nucleic acid sequences which code for MIVR-1 polypeptides and which hybridize to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1, under stringent conditions. The term "stringent conditions," as used herein, refers to parameters with which the art is familiar. With nucleic acids, hybridization conditions are said to be stringent typically under conditions of low ionic strength and a temperature just below the melting temperature (T_m) of the DNA hybrid complex (typically, about 3°C below the T_m of the hybrid). Higher stringency makes for a more specific correlation between the probe sequence and the target. Stringent conditions used in the hybridization of nucleic acids are well known in the art and may be found in references which compile such methods, e.g. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, J. Sambrook, et al., eds., Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989, or *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, F.M. Ausubel, et al., eds., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. An example of "stringent conditions" is hybridization at 65°C in 6 x SSC. Another example of stringent conditions is hybridization at 65°C in hybridization buffer that consists of 3.5 x SSC, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% polyvinyl pyrrolidone, 0.02% Bovine Serum Albumin, 2.5mM NaH_2PO_4[pH7], 0.5% SDS, 2mM EDTA. (SSC is 0.15M sodium chloride/0.015M sodium citrate, pH7; SDS is sodium dodecyl sulphate; and EDTA is ethylenediaminetetracetic acid). After hybridization, the membrane upon which the DNA is transferred is washed at 2 x SSC at room temperature and then at 0.1 x SSC/0.1 x SDS at temperatures up to 68°C. In a further example, an alternative to the use of an aqueous hybridization solution is the use of a formamide hybridization solution. Stringent hybridization conditions can thus be achieved using, for example, a 50% formamide solution and 42°C. There are other conditions, reagents, and so forth which can be used, and would result in a similar degree of stringency. The skilled artisan will be familiar with such conditions, and thus they are not given here. It will be understood, however, that the skilled artisan will be able to manipulate the conditions in a manner to permit

the clear identification of homologs and alleles of MIVR-1 nucleic acids of the invention. The skilled artisan also is familiar with the methodology for screening cells and libraries for expression of such molecules which then are routinely isolated, followed by isolation of the pertinent nucleic acid molecule and sequencing.